

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend FIGS. 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 28, 33, 37 and 38 as shown in the enclosed replacement drawings.

The drawings have been amended to overcome the objections that FIGS. 4, 6-8, 10, 1, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 28, 33, 37 and 38 contain portions which are shaded too dark, and FIGS. 34-36 are too light.

Moreover, the enclosed replacement drawings are a complete set of formal drawings for FIGS. 1-38.

G&C

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 22, 2005, claims 8, 21 and 34 have been canceled, claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 32, 35 and 36 have been amended, and new claims 40-45 have been added. Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-33 and 35-45 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Drawing Objections

In paragraphs (4)-(5) of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to, because Figures 4, 6-8, 10, 1, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 28, 33, 37 and 38 contain portions which are shaded too dark, and Figures 34-36 are too light.

Applicant's attorney has amended the drawings as indicated above to overcome these objections.

III. Specification Objections

In paragraph (6) of the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to, because the citation of a related application, at page 3 of the specification, needs to be updated with the current status.

Applicant's attorney has amended the specification as indicated above to overcome these objections.

IV. Non-Art Rejections

In paragraphs (7)-(8) of the Office Action, claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant's attorney has amended claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 14, 19, 23, 24, 27, 32, 36 and 37 to overcome some of these rejections, but traverses others of these rejections.

Specifically, Applicant's attorney traverses the rejections of claims 1, 14 and 27, by analogy with a single means claim. In this regard, Applicant's attorney notes that M.P.E.P. §2164.08(a) relates only to single means claims and nowhere refers to claims that are not single means claims. Applicant's attorney asserts that the Office Action improperly rejected claims 1, 14 and 27 on this basis and requests withdrawal of these rejections.

V. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (9)-(10) of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 14-18, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sowar et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,351,196 (Sowar). However, in paragraph (11) of the Office Action, claims 8-13, 21-26, and 34-39 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's attorney acknowledges the indication of allowable claims, and has amended claims 1, 14 and 27 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 8, 21 and 34, respectively.

Thus, Applicant's attorney submits that independent claims 1, 14 and 27 are allowable over Sowar. Further, dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-26, 28-33 and 35-45 are submitted to be allowable in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 14 and 27, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-26, 28-33 and 35-45 recite additional novel elements not shown by Sowar.

VI. Conclusion

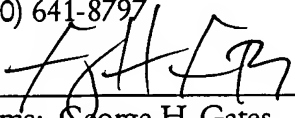
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

Howard Hughes Center
6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90045
(310) 641-8797

Date: October 21, 2005

By: 
Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500

GHG/